

ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center

Media Monitoring for Infectious and Emerging Diseases

ASEAN REGION

February 15 – 16, 2024



With Support by:

The image shows four logos in a row: the Government of Canada logo, the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency logo, the World Health Organization logo, and the bluedot logo.

This report is the result of media monitoring on infectious and emerging diseases happening around the world and among the ASEAN Member States. In order to improve pandemic and epidemic preparedness and response in the ASEAN Region. We provide this report three times a week starting from January 2024.

Global Situation

COVID-19

- **Australia:** In South Australia, 1,479 new COVID-19 cases were reported, with 18 deaths notified to the Department for Health and Wellbeing (Mirage News, 2024). The total number of cases has been readjusted due to data reconfiguration. In the past week, 3,370 people received a PCR test, an 8% decrease. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Bangladesh** has reported 44 COVID-19 linked cases in the last 24 hours, with no deaths reported (BanglaNews24, 2024). The country's total deaths remain at 29,484, and the number of COVID-19 cumulative cases reached 2,047,753. There has been 447 samples were tested, with recoveries reaching 423,626. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **India** saw a single-day rise of 120 cases of COVID-19, while the number of active cases of the infection has declined to 817 cases (Outlook India, 2024). The pandemic has been triggered by a new variant and cold weather conditions. The country has experienced three waves of COVID-19, with the peak occurring during the delta wave in April-June 2021. Since the pandemic began in early 2020, over 45 million people have been infected and over 530,000 deaths have occurred. Over 44 million people have recovered, and over 2,2 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered. [\[Full article\]](#)

Dengue

- **Mauritius:** A new dengue-related death has been confirmed in Mauritius, with an 88-year-old woman who died on February 11 (Staff Le Matinal, 2024). The death comes two weeks after the death of a 44-year-old resident from Goodlands. Dengue fever has caused two fatalities since its first appearance in December, 2023. The country currently has 539 active cases, with 888 recorded between December 11 and February 13. The disease can develop into severe forms, especially in people with co-morbidities. Health authorities urge consultations for symptoms and close surveillance. [\[Full article\]](#)

Measles

- **Austria:** The first case of measles in Salzburg this year was confirmed in a six-year-old boy, while a 23-year-old Flachgauer's illness was reported (Salzburger Nachrichten, 2024). Both cases are not related, and if a contact person has been vaccinated, no further measures are necessary. Health authorities in Flachgau are monitoring 50 others for vaccination history. [\[Full article\]](#)



- **Kazakhstan:** Since the start of the epidemic season, 450 people have been ill with measles in the Kostanay region, with 230 cases reported in 2024 (Averchenko, 2024). The majority are children under 14, with 70.9% being unvaccinated. The region has 44,500 who will be vaccinated, with 42,332 being vaccinated. An infectious disease specialist from Rudny City Hospital highlighted the seriousness of measles disease and its consequences. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Russia:** The Saratov region has seen an increase in measles cases, with 49 detected in January and seven in February. This year, the number has increased more than 10 times compared to the previous year (Aksyonova, 2024). In January 2023, measles was found in only four people in the region. The virus also affected 20,292 people over a week, with the epidemic threshold exceeding 63% in all age groups except for children aged 0 to 2 years. Children aged 7 to 14 are most affected, but there is a 2.8% decrease compared to the previous week. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **The United Kingdom (UK):** Doctors have diagnosed nearly 1,000 Measles cases this year, with 30 in Essex (Lee, 2024). The UK declared measles elimination in 2017 due to high measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine coverage. However, with vaccine coverage at its lowest level in a decade, 959 suspected infections have been identified this year, including 335 in the last week. This is the highest number of suspected measles cases seen in the first five weeks of a year in over a decade. In 2022, there were 45 infections. [\[Full article\]](#)

Mpox

- **Hong Kong (SAR):** A 48-year-old patient in Hong Kong has been diagnosed with mpox, a long-term illness, after visiting Singapore during the incubation period (8world, 2024). The patient, who began developing a rash on February 7, is currently in stable condition. The Hong Kong Center for Health Protection confirmed high-risk contacts during the incubation period. [\[Full article\]](#)

Pertussis

- **Spain:** Whooping cough cases in Catalonia have increased significantly, with 342 cases infected in the first half of 2024, more than half of the total infections in 2023 (Velasco, 2024). Three new outbreaks have been detected, with 18 affected in Cerdanyola del Vallès (Barcelona), which are still under investigation. The disease is a contagious respiratory infection caused by *Bordetella pertussis* and can be potentially serious, especially in babies. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **The United States (US):** The Chelan-Douglas Health District (CDHD) has reported a pertussis outbreak at a local school, with four confirmed cases and several more under investigation (Source ONE News Staff, 2024). The disease is contagious and spreads easily through coughing and sneezing. The district emphasizes vaccination, wearing masks, and antibiotics as the primary treatment. It is collaborating with schools, healthcare providers, and the Washington State Department of Health to manage the outbreak. [\[Full article\]](#)



Regional Situation

Dengue

- **Indonesia:** The District Health Office in East Kutai has reported 156 cases of dengue fever, with the data collected from January to February (Khaidir M, 2024). The DBD control program will be implemented in several health centers, including Teluk Lingga and Sangatta Utara, Teluk Pandan, Rantau Pulung, and Kaliorang. The program will also involve 21 school districts for various activities, such as socialization and community support. The program aims to improve air quality and reduce the spread of the disease. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Malaysia:** The Internasional Federation of Red Cross-Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (IFRC-DREF) application reported a significant increase in dengue cases in Malaysia from 2022 to October 2023, with 123,133 cases recorded nationwide (ReliefWeb, 2024). The number of deaths due to complications reached 100 cases, a 78.6% increase from 2022. Since January 2024, cases have risen to 3,525 cases, with two deaths reported. The Health Director-General warned of increased breeding areas for Aedes mosquitoes during the monsoon season, and the number of dengue hotspots increased from 130 to 136 localities, with Selangor being the worst-hit state. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Philippines:** The Department of Health in Northern Mindanao has reported a surge in dengue fever cases, with 898 confirmed cases and three deaths since January (Quilinguing, U.,2024). The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (Philhealth) has announced a 30% increase in benefit packages for dengue hospital admissions starting on Valentine's Day. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Singapore:** The number of Aedes mosquito breeding habitats found in residential homes doubled in January, compared to the same month in 2023, as weekly dengue cases remained high (Goh, R., 2024). The National Environment Agency (NEA) said that as of Wednesday, 14 February, more than 2,600 dengue cases have been reported in 2024. There were 515 dengue cases reported in the week ending 10 February, more than double the weekly number of cases in December 2023. [\[Full article\]](#)

Mpox

- **Cambodia:** The Ministry of Health confirmed a mpox diagnosis on a man in Phnom Penh, marking the fourth case since February 11 and the 12th since July 2022 (VNA, 2024). The WHO reported 93,030 infections and 176 deaths worldwide as of January 25, 2024. The Cambodian Ministry of Health urges citizens to prioritize their health to prevent mpox spread. Symptoms include high fever, muscle pain, lymphadenopathy, and rash, with an incubation period of 5-21 days. [\[Full article\]](#)



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